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### AABB Response on MSM Blood Donors

AABB welcomes FDA's recent decision to reduce the blood donation deferral period for men who have sex with men (MSM) from 12 to 3 months. This is an important step toward ensuring that anyone who is able to donate blood can do so without unnecessary deferrals—including MSM—and join the community of donors who save lives every day.

Following FDA's announcement about the shortened deferral period for MSM, AABB updated the AABB Blood Donor History Questionnaire (DHQ)—the FDA-recognized tool that blood centers use to screen blood donors—to reflect the new policy. AABB continues to support blood centers in their efforts to implement the new blood donor eligibility recommendations for HIV.

AABB further supports additional research being conducted by FDA; the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; and other public and private organizations to:

- examine the impact of this policy change on the pool of available blood donors and its impact on the safety of the blood supply.
- ensure that donor deferral policies do not unnecessarily exclude individuals who are able to donate blood safely.
- determine the efficacy and safety of less restrictive donor deferral policies.
- develop new safety technologies to promote donor inclusivity while ensuring the security of the blood supply.

AABB continues to champion inclusivity in the blood donation process by leading an effort to develop a gender-neutral DHQ for FDA's consideration. In addition, AABB's Donor History Task Force is exploring options to utilize an individual risk assessment as a tool for donor screening. AABB will continue working with our public and private-sector partners to drive progress and advance policies that support the safety and availability of the blood supply.